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GACarver, Jr.
DCI/SAVA
13 July 1968

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CITE DIRECTOR 16224

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RYBAT

GAC GWA CJS TAD
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MEE TAW LKP JS JK
D F

REF: DIRECTOR 16223

HEREWITH THE TEXT OF A 12 JULY MEMORANDUM FROM [] TO

25X1

ASSISTANT SECRETARY WILLIAM BUNDY ENTITLED "SITUATION IN THE COUNTRYSIDE." THE ATTACHMENTS WERE THE SUMMARY PARAGRAPHS OF

[]

1. ALTHOUGH GREAT VARIATION EXISTS FROM PROVINCE TO PROVINCE, THE MAJOR ALLIED EFFORT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE IN VIETNAM IS STILL AIMED AT REGAINING INITIATIVES LOST DURING THE TET OFFENSIVE. QUITE CLEARLY, THERE IS A REMEDIAL QUALITY IN THE PRESENT PACIFICATION EFFORT; THE SORTING OUT PROCESS CONTINUES AS WE ENDEAVOR TO DETERMINE HOW DEEPLY THE TANGIBLE AND THE INTANGIBLE GAINS OF 1967 HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE COMMUNISTS' WINTER-SPRING CAMPAIGN; THE ATTEMPTS TO OVERCOME THE INERTIA CAUSED BY THE DRAMATIC IMPACT OF THE TET OFFENSIVE HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY HAMPERED BY BOTH PSYCHOLOGICAL AND

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GENUINE (I. E., LEGITIMATE) CONCERNS FOR SECURITY ON THE PART OF ALL ELEMENTS IN RURAL PROGRAMS.

2. THE VIET CONG ARE CONCENTRATING ON TAX COLLECTION, RECRUITMENT AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND, IN MANY INSTANCES, FIND THEMSELVES UNOPPOSED. THE LOSS OF FAITH IN THE GVN AND ALLIED ABILITY TO PROTECT THE POPULATION NOT ONLY WORKS DIRECTLY TO THE VC ADVANTAGE, BUT ALSO INCREASES THE GVN'S PROBLEMS IN TRYING TO RE-ESTABLISH ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH A HIGHLY GUN-SHY PEOPLE.

3. MANY OF THE ARVN BATTALIONS PREVIOUSLY ASSIGNED TO SUPPORT REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT ARE NOW ENGAGED IN OTHER MISSIONS AND THE LOSS OF THESE PROTECTIVE FORCES SHORTENS THE FEASIBLE OPERATING RADIUS OUTSIDE PROVINCIAL OR DISTRICT CAPITALS. PROTECTION OF THE RURAL POPULATION HAS BEEN SACRIFICED IN FAVOR OF TOWNS AND CITIES. THE RD TEAMS, IN TURN, ARE FORCED TO CONCENTRATE ON PROVIDING LOCAL SECURITY AT THE EXPENSE OF THEIR OTHER PACIFICATION TASKS. AT THE SAME TIME THAT THIS CHANGE IN

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EMPHASIS OF DUTIES OF RD CADRE HAS TAKEN PLACE, THE MOBILIZATION
DECREE HAS CUT DEEPLY INTO THE NUMBERS OF AVAILABLE TECHNICAL
AND ADMINISTRATIVE CADRE (A PROBLEM THAT WILL GET WORSE UNLESS
SPECIFIC STEPS ARE TAKEN TO REDRESS IT.) THE LOSS OF THESE SPECIALISTS
IN AGRICULTURE, MEDICINE, EDUCATION, WELFARE, ETC. FURTHER REDUCES
AN ALREADY LIMITED PROVINCIAL CAPABILITY TO MEET PRESENTLY ASSIGNED
PACIFICATION GOALS.

4. THE GVN HAS ALWAYS EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTY IN CONCENTRATING
ITS EFFORTS ON SEVERAL DIVERSE ACTIVITIES WITH EQUAL DEGREES OF
INTENSITY. ITS DEVOTION TO PACIFICATION WAS NEVER COMPLETELY WHOLE-
HEARTED AND WILL SUFFER EVEN FURTHER AS MOBILIZATION PROGRESSES,
PARTICULARLY IF PRESIDENT THIEU CONTINUES TO STRESS A PRE-EMINENT
NEED FOR HIS GOVERNMENT TO ENGAGE THE VIET CONG MILITARILY.

5. THE GVN RECENTLY DECIDED TO CONCENTRATE THE NEXT TWO
VUNG TAU GRADUATING CLASSES, REGARDLESS OF THEIR PLACES OF ORIGIN,
IN A "SHOW THE FLAG" OPERATION AROUND SAIGON METROPOLITAN AREA
FOR A TWELVE WEEK STINT. THIS DECISION GIVES CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT

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SECURITY OF THE URBAN AREAS IS STILL A MAJOR PREOCCUPATION OF THE GVN AT ITS HIGHEST LEVELS. IN SUCH AN OFFICIAL ATMOSPHERE, RURAL PACIFICATION CANNOT, FOR SOME TIME TO COME, BE EXPECTED TO RECEIVE THE PRIORITY IT DESERVES.

6. POSSIBLY THE BEST WAY TO OBTAIN SOME FEEL FOR OVERALL ACTIVITY AND ATTITUDES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE WOULD BE TO SCAN THE MOST RECENT WEEKLY SUMMATIONS SUBMITTED BY OUR FOUR SENIOR CORPS OFFICERS. ATTACHED HERETO ARE THE SUMMARIES FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF JULY.

END OF MESSAGE



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GEORGE A. CARVER, JR
SAVA

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